

Plant Disease Detection using Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

A PROJECT REPORT

Submitted in partial fulfillment for the Degree of
Bachelor of Technology under the
School of Computing

Submitted by

Register No

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December 2024

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BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that this is a bonafide record of the project presented by the students whose names are given below during Project Phase 1 in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of Bachelor of Technology in Computer Science and Engineering.

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Acknowledgements

We want to express our sincere gratitude to those who helped and contributed to completing the project “**Plant Disease Detection using Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning**”. We are grateful for everyone’s support and guidance to enable us to research and engineer to contribute to the sector of agriculture.

We express our sincere gratitude to our guide Dr. Gopakumar G., for guiding, helping and supporting us in every step of this project. Dr. Gopakumar G.’s guidance and expertise have been invaluable throughout the research and development done for this project. It would have been impossible to complete this project without his care and support

We want to thank our advisor and organizer **Raji** for keeping us organized and guiding us to complete the project on time and providing us with a supportive environment to complete our project. Her contribution to completing this project is priceless.

We are grateful for the support of Dr. Divya R for guiding us to effectively complete our project and see that we don’t get derailed in our research.

We want to express our gratitude to our teachers and friends for their helpful insights and constructive feedback. Their insights and opinions have been invaluable for enriching and improving our project. We are grateful for their time and effort in participating in some of the most valuable discussions to guide and improve the project and help in its successful completion.

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Abstract

India is an agricultural country, as two-thirds of its population is engaged in agricultural activities, the development in this sector is very important for the country both economically and socially. The losses in agriculture due to pests and diseases are estimated to be approximately 20-25%. Despite the significance of the agricultural sector for the country, the application and implementation of Artificial intelligence and machine learning have been limited in the past five years. We must introduce cutting-edge technologies in Artificial intelligence to the agricultural sector to improve the quality of life of farmers and other people in the sector. This project introduces a solution to diagnose the common pests and diseases in plants using Artificial intelligence and Machine learning techniques. The study focuses on implementing a robust solution to classify different plant diseases based on the images mainly focused on the leaves. The project proposes a Vision Transformer(ViT)-based solution with an accuracy of 99 per cent on the test dataset for diagnosis of fourteen different plant diseases across three different crops. The lack of introduction of these technologies can also be interpreted as the consequence absence of good, clean and homogeneous data for training different models. To help the future development of similar solutions the project summarizes the current state of the various famous datasets for usage in production-level solutions development. As the solutions developed are highly dependent on the availability and quality of existing datasets, we propose a clean and efficient way to collect and organize more data for further development. The project also implements and tests how these solutions can be efficiently deployed and made accessible to everyone. The project starts out with an essential focus on the differentiation of the chilli plants that are infected by the leaf curl virus from the healthy ones to eventually generalize the problem of plant disease diagnosis. Large Language Models(LLM's) are the current trend in making data more accessible to everyone. The project also engineers a solution to introduce the LLM's to make the user more knowledgeable about the disease at hand and also guide him in the process of minimizing the loss due to the pest or disease.

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Background

The sector of agriculture is one of the most important sectors for the Indian economy. The agricultural sector contributes about 20-25% to the GDP of India. There has been a steady decline in the contribution of the agricultural sector to the Indian economy. This can be interpreted as a result of lack of research and development in this area. Especially in India agricultural sector has the least amount of growth and development compared to the other sectors which are actively implementing and adopting the cutting-edge technologies for rapid development. The introduction of Artificial intelligence seem to be the slowest in the agricultural sector compared to its explosive growth in other industries. This leaves the agricultural sector with a huge gap to incorporate and adopt the cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning techniques for further improvement. This motivates us to research and develop AI and ML based solutions to solve the common problems in the agricultural sector. Even though there has been a considerable amount of research to introduce Artificial intelligence techniques into agriculture this project keeps the accessibility of the research and development as its top priority.

Through the previous economic surveys the loss of income due to plant diseases and pests is about 20-25%, which is a significant figure over the total economy of the agriculture. The areas of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning have seen an explosive development in the past few years. With the latest advancements in computer vision and natural language processing it is possible to devise solutions to minimize the costs due to plant diseases and pests in agriculture. Most of the research done to incorporate these techniques never was really adopted and applied in the real world conditions. All these circumstances and conditions form the basis for this project. As most of the solutions that can be incorporated from the areas of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning are heavily dependant on the amount and quality of data, it is essential to improve the data resources and repositories to enable further research and development. It is very essential to analyze the available resources and weigh their pros, cons and biases to build robust production ready systems that are ready for use

in fields. The study hypothesizes that it is possible to develop a solution accessible through widely available hardware to detect diseases in plants early and provide suitable solutions to counter the progression of that disease.

1.2 Problem Addressed

The project aims to introduce various Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning techniques to the field of agriculture to minimize the losses due to pests and diseases. The study focuses on the detection and the possibility of early detection of various diseases in plants by using AI (Artificial Intelligence) and ML (Machine Learning). This study focuses on assessing the feasibility of making the developed solution available to regular people with minimal resources.

The study explores the feasibility of various machine learning techniques such as Support Vector machines, DNNs (Deep Neural Networks, RNNs (Recurrent Neural Networks) and Transformers for solving the task.

the problem is to develop a solution for early detection and detection of diseases in plants with minimal requirements that are accessible by everyone by exploring a wide range of machine learning and deep learning techniques. Focus on the feasibility of the developed solutions to be applied easily by normal people.

The recent advancements in natural language processing through the use of Large Language Models(LLMs) opened new ways to efficiently manage knowledge and data. The project deals with the problem of guiding the user further based on a predefined knowledge to minimize the loss due to the disease.

The solutions built using the AI and ML techniques are known to be computationally expensive to deploy and scale. The project aims to optimize the deployment of the proposed solution over limited resources. The deployment architecture focuses on effective horizontal scaling for maximum accessibility to the masses. It is important that the solutions that are developed in the research are reaching the people to make some difference.

The proposed solution should be able to pass the test that the internal testing team does to prove its viability. The developed solution should be satisfactory to the initial users to continue for the further development. The model should show reliable results on the real world data that it is exposed to during the testing in fields. The current testing focus is majorly on the Chilli Leaf Curl virus and the ability of the model to differentiate the infected plant from the healthy ones.

As the solutions that are currently being explored and the ones that are going to be devel-

oped in the future are heavily dependant on the quality and availability of data for training, we aim to provide a critical review on the state of various datasets with emphasis on pros, cons and biases observed in each of them. The problems that arise when combining multiple datasets to make a bigger dataset should also be effectively explained for the future research and development.

The study aims to provide well-documented research on the performance of a wide range of AI and ML techniques to detect diseases in plants. The project also focuses on the development of a mobile app that can be used to implement these modes on edge with a focus on accessibility on consumer hardware.

1.3 Motivation

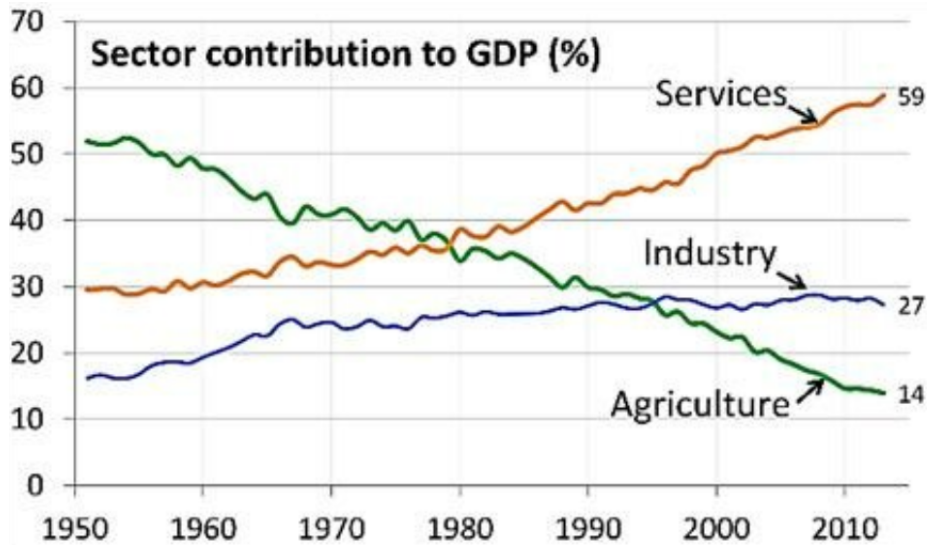


Figure 1.1: Decline in contribution of agriculture to India’s GDP

The occupations based on agriculture are becoming harder to sustain due to the environmental changes and unexpected changes in the climate. The field of agriculture has seen less growth and development compared to the other sectors mainly through the explosive development on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning techniques. The introduction of these latest techniques have been slow in the areas of agriculture compared to other sectors. We aim to contribute to the sector of agriculture by exploring some of the possible solutions to diagnose plant diseases and pests to minimize the losses to the farmers.

We believe that the research gets value when solutions are engineered based on the research. This project aims to analyze the complexities and optimizations in the deployment of the developed solutions. We are motivated by the fact that the knowledge is only useful when it is applied at the right place and the right time. The project aims to enable the users to get the required knowledge about the plant diseases and pests in the right time.

It is important to facilitate the future research and development through a critical review of the datasets that are used in the project based on their quality and document the challenges faced during the usage of these datasets.

The project progresses on the motivation to introduce the latest Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning techniques to the field of agriculture to improve the overall conditions of the sector.

1.4 Scope of the Project

The study starts small with a focus on the leaf curl virus and aims to generalize the solution to various common diseases in plants. The project focuses on the edge deployment of the solution on consumer hardware and these aspects set apart the current project from others.

The study aims to act as a first step in building sustainable and accessible AI and ML solutions to contribute to the agricultural sector. The study currently proposes a prototype to diagnose plant diseases and give some basic knowledge about the detected disease to the user. The testing scope of the project includes the testing of the built prototype in field for detection of Leaf Curl Virus in Chilli plants.

The project does not aim to provide a completely accurate application to diagnose the diseases in plants but to act as a proof of concept and guide to build more advanced and sophisticated solutions to contribute to the field of agriculture. The project introduces efficiently scalable deployment architecture for computationally expensive Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning solutions to make the cutting edge research accessible to the people.

Chapter 2

Literature Review/ Existing System

2.1 Existing System Study

There have been a significant amount of research to introduce Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning technologies to the field of agriculture to minimize the losses due to diseases and pests. These researches and solutions help us build better solutions in the current project. An extensive study is done to explore and analyze the existing systems and solutions that are trying to solve similar problems.

In the paper **Construction of deep learning-based disease detection model in plants** in the year 2023, Minah Jung et al. proposed a Deep Learning based framework for the construction of disease detection models in plants. The solution is designed to work in three steps namely: Crop Classification, Disease Detection and Disease Classification [1]. The segregation of responsibility and labour in the proposed solution can be leveraged to efficiently scale the built solution. Also as the division on labour is clear and strict the retraining cost for the solution can be minimized by limiting the changes to the concerned model. Even though the solution developed in the paper have inconsistent performance across different plant species, the modularity of the architecture allows us to correct what went wrong without disturbing what went right. Even though the proposed solution can be horizontally scaled on demand due to it's well defined modularity, an ill deployed solution can be computationally expensive and can be heavy on computation due to large chain of action. This introduces the cost of latency in return for the ease of systematic and efficient training and deployment.

In the paper **Dense convolutional neural networks based multiclass plant disease detection and classification using leaf images** in the year 2021, Vibhav et al. proposed a Dense Neural Network architecture for plant disease classification. The proposed solution is highly accurate on the used dataset with an impressive response time of 16ms per image for classification. Even though the proposed solution's performance is inconsistent across different classes, the paper sheds light on how a centralized monolithic model performs in the disease detection tasks. In contrast to the Minah Jung et al's work the current solution may not have

a good division of responsibility and retraining efficiency, the solution boasts a significantly better performance in deployment. The paper does not provide any information about the steps taken to clean or balance the dataset for training.

In the paper **Plant Disease Detection Using Image Processing and Machine Learning** in the year 2021, the authors Pranesh et al. introduces statistical machine learning and image processing techniques to detect plant diseases. The algorithms proposed is explainable and a lot of information is given about feature extration for machine learning to solve the task at hand. Even though the paper does not explore any Deep Learning based solutions, the algorithm is logically explainable and the solution is light on resource usage. The solution is not reliable and performant due to the use of just machine learning techniques without any introduction of deep learning.

In the paper **Plant leaf disease detection using computer vision and machine learning algorithms** in the year 2022, Sunil et al. introduced innovative technologies to detect plant diseases from leaf images. The study gives an exhaustive review and benchmarks of a wide range of classification algorithms in solving the plant disease detection problem. Even though the solutions provided in the paper are not properly presented and justified the paper contributes by providing base line metrics for further studies to improve.

In the year 2018, with the paper **Plant Disease Detection Using Machine Learning**, Shima et al. provided an exhaustive review of the performance of various machine learning techniques in the context of plant disease detection. The paper sheds light on the feature engineering for the task of plant disease diagnosis. This is one of the few papers that mentioned about the performance of the developed solution in deployment. The authors developed and deployed the solution as a server-based mobile application and provided its benchmarks. The paper is old and does not cover any scope of Deep Learning but it is considered a valuable resource to study feature extraction and engineering for the task of plant disease detection due to its very insightful presentation of feature selection and extraction.

All these papers and their results act as a starting point to engineer our solution. All the limitations and contributions of the previous works are consolidated in Table 2.1.

2.2 Research Gap/ Scope for improvement and innovation

Limitations/ problems not addressed in existing systems Point out the specific shortcomings or challenges that persist in existing solutions. Identify areas or research questions that have not been addressed

1. Which are all the gaps that you have addressed now in the Phase I

Table 2.1: Comparison of Related Works

Paper Title	Contribution	Limitations
<i>Construction of deep learning-based disease detection model in plants</i>	Development of a Deep learning-based framework for the construction of disease detection models in plates. The solution is designed to work in three steps namely: crop classification, disease detection, and disease classification.	The proposed solution's performance is inconsistent over different plant species. But this can be improved with appropriate adjustments. The model is robust but heavy on computation
<i>Dense convolutional neural networks based multiclass plant disease detection and classification using leaf images</i>	Dense Neural Network Architecture for plant disease classification. The solution provided is highly accurate on the tested dataset. The model also boasts an impressive 16ms response time for classifying an image	he proposed solution's performance is inconsistent over different plant species. No data is provided about whether the datasets are balanced
<i>Plant Disease Detection Using Image Processing and Machine Learning</i>	Plant disease detection using statistical machine learning and image processing algorithm. Interesting approach to feature extraction and selection.	The paper does not explore any DL solutions for the problem. The solution is more explainable but less performant due to the use of machine learning techniques without deep learning.
<i>Plant leaf disease detection using computer vision and machine learning algorithms</i>	bring awareness about the innovative technologies to detect plant diseases from plant leaf images. The study presents the performance of a wide range of classification algorithms for the task at hand.	Ill-phrased or bad presentation is observed in the paper.
<i>Plant Disease Detection Using Machine Learning</i>	The paper provides an exhaustive review of the performance of various machine-learning techniques in the context of plant disease detection. The paper shed light on feature engineering for the task of plan disease classification. One of the few papers that mention the deployment of the developed solution as a server-based or mobile-based application	The paper is old and does not cover any applications of deep learning. But it is considered a valuable resource due to its very insightful presentation of feature extraction and selection

2. Gaps which you plan to address in phase II(If the project is to be continued)

2.3 Problem Statement and Contributions

1. Problem Statement: Clearly articulate the specific challenge you aim to solve. Ensure it flows naturally from the gaps identified in the previous slide. Use precise, concise language to define the problem scope.
2. Research Contributions Present 2-4 clear, measurable research contribution of your work. For Research Projects: Focus on advancing knowledge, developing methodologies, or validating hypotheses. For Product-Based Projects: Focus on delivering a functional, innovative solution with specific features or improvements.

Chapter 3

Proposed Work

3.1 Chapter Introduction

This chapter will introduce the proposed methodology on how to approach the challenge of early plant disease detection and identification by implementing AI and DL approaches. It references the study based on literature and points out how the proposed program meets the need for contemporary research in eliminating the deficits and barriers present. Finally, the chapter highlights the novelty and uniqueness of the proposed framework to be not only resource-friendly but also user-friendly to the nonscientific individual.

3.2 Proposed Work

Modern agricultural methods face severe challenges that arise from plant diseases, leading to a decrease in crop production and monetary loss. Early diagnosis of plant diseases is thus very critical to overcome such impacts. However, available methods are resource-intensive, require expert intervention, and are not scalable. The purpose of our proposed study is to develop an artificial intelligence-based system that helps detect plant diseases early, but with low resource intensity and infrastructure requirements. The focus should be on developing a solution that is cost-effective, user-friendly, and easily accessible to farmers and agriculturalists, especially those who are in remote or resource-limited areas.

Through an extensive review of existing literature and current methodologies in plant disease detection systems, several critical gaps and limitations have been identified that significantly impact the practical implementation and accessibility of these solutions. A primary concern is the heavy reliance on sophisticated and expensive equipment, including high-resolution imaging systems, specialized sensors, and advanced computational hardware. This dependence on costly infrastructure creates a substantial barrier for small-scale farmers and agricultural communities with limited resources, effectively excluding a significant portion of the target user base from accessing these technological advancements. Furthermore, the existing solutions demonstrate a notable limitation in dataset diversity, with many systems being developed and

trained on narrow, crop-specific datasets. This specialization, while potentially beneficial for specific applications, severely restricts the systems' generalizability and adaptability across different agricultural contexts and varied crop types. The challenge of real-time analysis presents another significant hurdle, as numerous existing systems operate primarily through offline processing mechanisms, introducing considerable delays between disease detection and implementation of remedial measures. This delay can be critical in agricultural scenarios where rapid response is essential for disease containment and crop preservation. The complexity in deployment represents another substantial barrier, with many current solutions requiring extensive technical expertise and sophisticated computational resources for successful implementation. This technical complexity makes these systems particularly impractical for deployment in rural and remote agricultural areas, where technical support and infrastructure may be limited. Additionally, scalability emerges as a crucial concern, as few existing approaches have successfully developed frameworks that can be readily adapted and scaled across different crop varieties and disease types while maintaining accuracy and efficiency. The integration challenges with contemporary mobile and web-based platforms further compound these limitations, as many systems lack user-friendly interfaces and accessible deployment options that would make them practical tools for farmers and agricultural workers. These technological and accessibility barriers collectively highlight the pressing need for more inclusive, scalable, and practically implementable solutions in plant disease detection systems.

The research initiative seeks to fill critical gaps in the detection of agricultural diseases through the introduction of a new framework that exploits the power of artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies. This detailed approach begins with a focused study of the leaf curl virus, one of the most damaging plant pathogens, with a massive impact on crop productivity worldwide. This concentrated approach makes it easier to lay a strong foundation that can then be expanded to encompass a more diverse range of plant diseases impacting different species. The implementation of this method relies heavily on sophisticated convolutional neural network architectures that are designed specifically to operate efficiently on resource-constrained devices, like smartphones and embedded systems. The framework effectively realizes advanced feature extraction while preserving computational efficiency by applying transfer learning methodologies utilizing well-established architectures such as MobileNetV2 and EfficientNet. A fundamental aspect of the initiative consists of the careful assembly of a comprehensive dataset, which is enhanced by sophisticated data augmentation strategies that improve the model's robustness against real-world fluctuations in imaging conditions. The methodology includes a systematic evaluation of a variety of machine learning algorithms, including Support Vector Machines, Decision Trees, Random Forests, and even more complex deep learning frameworks like DNNs and RNNs, with a strong focus on hyperparameter tuning to get the best possible performance. It will apply this in the development of a productive pipeline for real-time detection by utilizing frameworks, such as TensorFlow Lite and PyTorch Mobile; therefore, ensuring farmers access rapid diagnostic outputs through

user-friendly mobile or web applications, besides providing recommendations to improve management and prevent disease. Importantly, the solution has been developed with a primary focus on accessibility, incorporating offline functionalities that allow operation in locations where internet connectivity is scarce, thus guaranteeing its usefulness for farmers situated in remote areas. This holistic strategy signifies a noteworthy progression in agricultural technology, integrating advanced technical solutions with practical usability factors to tackle actual challenges associated with crop disease management.

The proposed research is unique in being innovative and comprehensive in addressing the democratization of agricultural disease detection technology, especially looking at its implementation in resource-limited rural settings. The newness of the framework actually comes from its carefully planned methodology: starting with specialization in the leaf curl virus detection as a proof of concept and then expanding. Unlike traditional solutions that are mainly based on high-end server infrastructure, this approach focuses on efficiency and accessibility through optimized lightweight architectures designed for mobile devices without compromising the accuracy of detection. One of the most outstanding features of the framework is the sophisticated integration of traditional machine learning methodologies with cutting-edge deep learning architectures, making it a hybrid system that adapts dynamically to varying conditions and requirements. The solution’s robustness is enhanced by an extremely curated dataset encompassing a multiplicity of crop varieties and disease conditions, thereby highly enhancing the generalizability of the system across different agricultural contexts. The framework emphasizes user accessibility through thoughtfully designed interfaces that provide clear actionable insights, making advanced technology accessible to users with varied technical expertise. Perhaps most significantly, the offline functionality allows reliable operation in areas where only limited internet connectivity exists, covering a critical gap left so far by existing solutions.

Implementation of the strategy follows a systematized progression starting off with comprehensive data collection as well as preprocessing to assure a robust foundation for models to be developed. This is the gathering of diverse samples of pictures of healthy and diseased plants from various sources to broaden representation across the conditions being represented. The model development phase of this process would focus more on training and optimizing these lightweight and deep learning architectures, with an emphasis more on maintaining performance but now at reduced computational costs. A critical aspect of the implementation involves rigorous optimization procedures to minimize model size and enhance inference speed, ensuring practical usability on mobile devices. The development of intuitive user interfaces, both mobile and web-based, forms a crucial component of the implementation plan, facilitating seamless interaction between users and the technology. The framework is tested and validated on the basis of comprehensive performance metrics, such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score, to ensure its reliability across various operational conditions. The final phase includes careful deployment across mobile platforms and thorough field testing with actual farmers to

validate real-world effectiveness and gather valuable user feedback for continuous improvement.

3.2.1 Objectives of the Proposed Work

This research initiative is fundamentally driven by the hypothesis that early plant disease detection and intervention can be democratized through artificial intelligence solutions optimized for commonly available consumer hardware. The core premise suggests that by leveraging advanced machine learning techniques while prioritizing accessibility, it is possible to develop a practical system that enables timely disease identification and provides actionable intervention strategies, ultimately empowering farmers regardless of their technological infrastructure. The research aims to establish comprehensive documentation of various AI and ML methodologies' effectiveness in plant disease detection, with a particular focus on edge computing capabilities through mobile applications. This practical implementation goal is complemented by rigorous academic objectives, including the development of lightweight yet robust AI architectures capable of real-time disease detection while maintaining high accuracy levels suitable for field deployment. The project emphasizes creating an accessible system that significantly reduces reliance on expensive specialized equipment or consistent internet connectivity, thereby addressing a critical barrier to technology adoption in agricultural communities. Through intuitive user interface design and optimization for consumer-grade hardware, the research seeks to bridge the gap between sophisticated AI capabilities and practical agricultural needs. The anticipated impact extends beyond technological advancement, targeting tangible improvements in crop yield through early disease detection and intervention, ultimately contributing to agricultural sustainability and economic efficiency. This comprehensive approach represents a synthesis of technical innovation and practical utility, aiming to deliver a solution that is both scientifically rigorous and immediately applicable in real-world farming contexts.

The research endeavors to advance agricultural disease management through a comprehensive set of primary and secondary objectives that combine technical sophistication with practical utility. At its core, the project aims to develop a high-performance AI-based solution achieving a minimum 90% accuracy rate in plant disease detection, while maintaining real-time processing capabilities with sub-second response times per image analysis. This technical precision is balanced with accessibility considerations, as the system is specifically engineered to operate efficiently on resource-constrained hardware platforms such as mobile devices and Raspberry Pi units. The initial focus centers on achieving exceptional accuracy in leaf curl virus detection, with a planned expansion to encompass at least five additional plant diseases, demonstrating the solution's scalability and versatility. A critical technical objective involves implementing robust offline functionality, ensuring the system's utility in regions with limited internet connectivity, while simultaneously developing sophisticated time-series prediction models to analyze and forecast disease progression patterns, enabling proactive intervention strategies.

Beyond these primary technical goals, the project encompasses several crucial secondary objectives aimed at maximizing real-world impact and usability. These include the develop-

ment of an intuitive user interface designed specifically for non-technical users, incorporating clear visual feedback and actionable insights. The system will integrate comprehensive disease management recommendations, providing users with specific preventive measures and treatment options based on detection results. To ensure robust performance across diverse agricultural contexts, the framework will undergo rigorous evaluation using multiple datasets, complemented by extensive field trials and systematic user feedback collection. This practical validation phase will inform continuous refinement of both accuracy and usability aspects. Furthermore, the project emphasizes thorough documentation and architectural optimization to facilitate future expansion, establishing a foundation for incorporating additional plant species and diseases as the system evolves. This comprehensive approach ensures that the solution not only meets immediate agricultural needs but also provides a sustainable platform for ongoing development and adaptation to emerging challenges in plant disease management.

3.3 Methodology

3.3.1 Overview of the Approach:

The prime goal of this research endeavors to revolutionize plant disease detection by focusing on developing an integrated solution that harnesses the power of AI into robust as well as accessible health knowledge. The system thereby aims at merging computer vision techniques with natural language processing capabilities to evolve into a comprehensive diagnostic tool that can be transformed from mere disease identification into an interactive, context-aware treatment recommendation. The framework innovatively merges image classification technologies with conversational AI to create a synergistic system that can visually and conversationally discuss problems in plant health.

In conclusion, solution architecture was carefully structured into various phased processes that are seamlessly linked for maximum effectiveness and reliability. The first part concerns complex data preprocessing aimed to obtain high-quality inputs consistently independent of the imaging environment conditions. The second was heavily modeled training using convolutional neural networks (CNN) and vision transformers, designed for high-precision detection of diseases. The integration of vision transformers is one great advancement, as architectures proved to be superior to all others in capturing long-range dependencies and contextual information inside images.

Particularly innovative within this system is its use of a Retrieval-Augmented Generation, or RAG, pipeline that improves the ability of the chatbot to produce the right answers at the right times. This enables it to dynamically access and draw on a curated knowledge base while ensuring that recommendations are not only scientifically sound but also practically applicable. The chatbot component transforms complex diagnostic information into accessible, conversational guidance, making the technology more approachable for users with varying levels

of technical expertise.

This validation and real-world testing in the workflow indicates a commitment to the practical applicability of such a system, ensuring its reliability under various agricultural conditions. This all-inclusive approach creates a bridge between highly sophisticated AI technologies and real practical needs in agriculture and can transform the way farmers and agricultural professionals approach the management of plant diseases.

3.3.2 Dataset Selection:

The dataset for training the model is a careful combination of the following datasets and the images directly collected with the courtesy of Amrita Coimbatore.

Plant-Doc dataset: <https://github.com/pratikkayal/PlantDoc-Dataset>

PlantVillage dataset: <https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/emmarex/plantdisease>

iBean dataset: <https://github.com/AI-Lab-Makerere/ibean>

Citrus leaves dataset : https://www.tensorflow.org/datasets/catalog/citrus_leaves

Rice Leaf Disease dataset: <https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/vbookshelf/rice-leaf-diseases>

The dataset finally prepared has approximately 21000 images spanning across 17 classes of plants.

Note: The number of images in some classes in the dataset prepared is significantly lower compared to the other classes. This imbalance is a result of the compilation of multiple data sources to prepare a master dataset with maximum available data. This makes the problem a long-tail classification problem which can be solved through some preprocessing methods and training methods

The foundation of this research rests upon a meticulously curated dataset that combines multiple established plant disease image collections with newly gathered samples. The consolidated dataset integrates images from diverse sources including the Plant-Doc dataset, PlantVillage dataset, iBean dataset, Citrus Leaves dataset, and Rice Leaf Disease dataset, supplemented by direct image collection following standardized guidelines. This comprehensive approach has yielded approximately 21,000 images distributed across 17 distinct plant classes, creating a robust foundation for model training.

The dataset structure has been deliberately designed to facilitate seamless integration of new data, with the training folder organized hierarchically according to prediction classes. A notable characteristic of the compiled dataset is its inherent class imbalance, where certain categories contain significantly fewer samples than others. This imbalance, resulting from the heterogeneous nature of the source datasets, presents a long-tail classification challenge that necessitates specialized preprocessing and training methodologies.



Figure 3.1: Structure of the dataset

The preprocessing pipeline has been specifically optimized for Vision Transformer architecture implementation. Given the heterogeneous nature of the source data, with variations in image dimensions, formats, and capture conditions, a standardized preprocessing workflow has been established. Images undergo uniform rescaling and resizing to 224 x 224 resolution before being processed through the ViT preprocessor for patch-wise decomposition. This preprocessing is executed dynamically to maintain dataset integrity across different model architectures, with plans to incorporate disease progression stage data in future iterations.

The language modeling component employs the Llama 3.2 2b model, implementing a Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) pipeline to circumvent the computational demands of full model fine-tuning. The knowledge base consists of manually curated information that is embedded and stored in a vector database, enabling semantic and contextual information retrieval during response generation. To optimize system performance, frequently asked questions about specific plant conditions are preemptively provided during prediction, reducing the inference load on the language model.

The training methodology follows a two-phase approach. The initial training phase utilizes pre-trained Vision Transformer weights, allowing full network weight updates to optimize performance specifically for plant disease detection. This phase incorporates best weight restoration mechanisms to prevent overfitting, with performance validation conducted on segregated test data. The system implements robust checkpoint saving to enable training resumption in

case of interruption. The second phase, balanced retraining, addresses the long-tail classification challenge by training on a balanced dataset with frozen backbone weights. For incorporating new classes, both training phases are repeated using the previously retrained weights as initialization points, ensuring seamless model expansion while maintaining performance integrity.

This comprehensive data and training methodology establishes a robust foundation for accurate plant disease detection while maintaining flexibility for future improvements and expansions. The approach effectively addresses common challenges in agricultural image classification while providing a scalable framework for continuous system enhancement.

3.3.3 Algorithm/Model Design:

- **Vision Model:**

- **Pretrained Vision Transformer (ViT):** Extracts hierarchical visual features for disease classification.
- **Custom CNN Layers:** Fine-tuned layers to improve feature extraction.
- **Transfer Learning:** Utilizes pre-trained weights to accelerate training and optimize accuracy.

- **Language Model:**

- **LLaMA 3.2 LLM:** Used for interactive chatbot responses with domain-specific customization.
- **RAG Pipeline:** Enhances text generation by integrating document retrieval for contextual answers.

The classification framework implements a sophisticated multi-stage approach that integrates both visual and linguistic processing components. The visual analysis pipeline begins with advanced feature extraction techniques, where the Vision Transformer architecture processes the input image through its attention mechanisms, effectively identifying and isolating distinctive characteristics of plant diseases. This includes subtle variations in leaf coloration, texture patterns, and structural deformities that may indicate specific pathologies. Image segmentation plays a crucial role in the detection pipeline, employing region-based analysis to isolate affected areas from healthy plant tissue. This segmentation process enhances the model’s ability to focus on disease-specific features while minimizing the impact of background noise and environmental variations. The segmented regions undergo detailed analysis through the transformer’s multi-head attention layers, enabling the system to capture both local and global contextual information critical for accurate disease classification. The natural language processing component leverages semantic similarity search through a carefully structured vector database system. This database stores dense vector embeddings of domain-specific agricultural knowledge, disease characteristics, and treatment protocols. The embedding process

transforms textual information into high-dimensional vectors that preserve semantic relationships, enabling the system to perform rapid and contextually relevant information retrieval. When a disease is identified through the visual pipeline, the system can quickly access and retrieve relevant information about the condition, its progression patterns, and recommended treatment approaches. The integration of these visual and textual processing pipelines creates a comprehensive system that not only identifies plant diseases but also provides meaningful, context-aware recommendations. This unified approach ensures that farmers receive both accurate diagnoses and practical, actionable insights for disease management.

3.3.4 Tools and Technologies:

- **Programming Languages:**
 - Python, Node.js
- **Libraries and Frameworks:**
 - TensorFlow, PyTorch, OpenCV, Scikit-learn, Keras
- **Vector Database:**
 - ChromaDB for storing embeddings
- **Deployment Tools:**
 - Docker for containerization, Hugging Face for cloud hosting
- **Mobile Development:**
 - Flutter for cross-platform app development
- **Version Control:**
 - GitHub repositories for modular development

The current stage of this project is primarily focused on early development and prototyping, necessitating a cost-efficient and resource-conscious approach to implementation. Given the inherent limitations of free cloud services, the architecture emphasizes a decentralized design to ensure scalability and flexibility. At its core, the system is structured as a network of microservices, each of which is tasked with a specific, well-defined responsibility. This modular approach not only simplifies development and maintenance but also facilitates seamless integration and future scalability. Notably, the system does not mandate users to authenticate or provide any personal information, ensuring privacy and accessibility. Instead, each instance of a prediction operates within its own self-contained context, with all relevant data and results stored locally on the user's device.

Currently, the prediction and language processing systems are hosted online, offering promising capabilities in addressing the identified problem domain. However, there remains considerable scope for improving their performance and expanding their utility. At this stage, the language model relies on a predefined set of static answers tailored to a limited range of frequently asked questions, specifically focusing on diagnosing a single type of plant disease. Ongoing development efforts aim to transition from this rudimentary setup to a more robust, full-text processing system. The end goal is to deploy this enhanced model across multiple low-resource servers, leveraging freely available hosting solutions to ensure widespread accessibility without incurring significant costs.

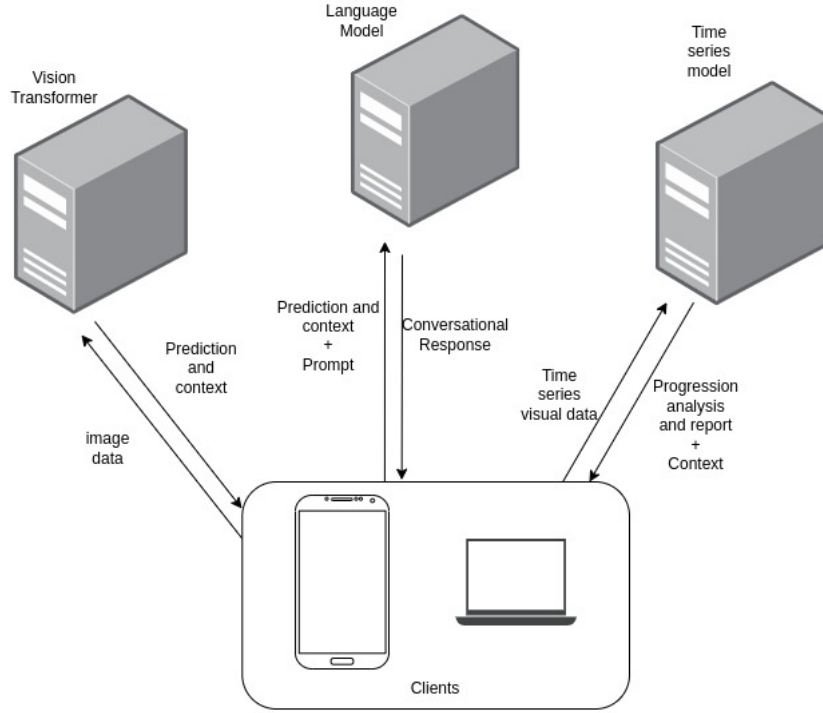


Figure 3.2: Client-Server Architecture

3.3.5 Algorithm or Model Description

The proposed approach for plant disease classification is a multi-stage pipeline designed to ensure high accuracy, robustness, and usability for practical applications. It begins with the input of preprocessed image data, where raw images are standardized through resizing, normalization, and augmentation techniques to enhance model generalization and performance. This preprocessing step addresses variations in lighting, angles, and resolutions, ensuring that the model can handle diverse input conditions effectively.

Feature extraction is then performed using a Vision Transformer (ViT) architecture, which divides each input image into smaller non-overlapping patches. These patches are subsequently projected into embeddings that preserve spatial and structural information, enabling the model to capture fine-grained details and patterns crucial for disease identification. The ViT leverages self-attention mechanisms, allowing it to model both local and global dependencies within the

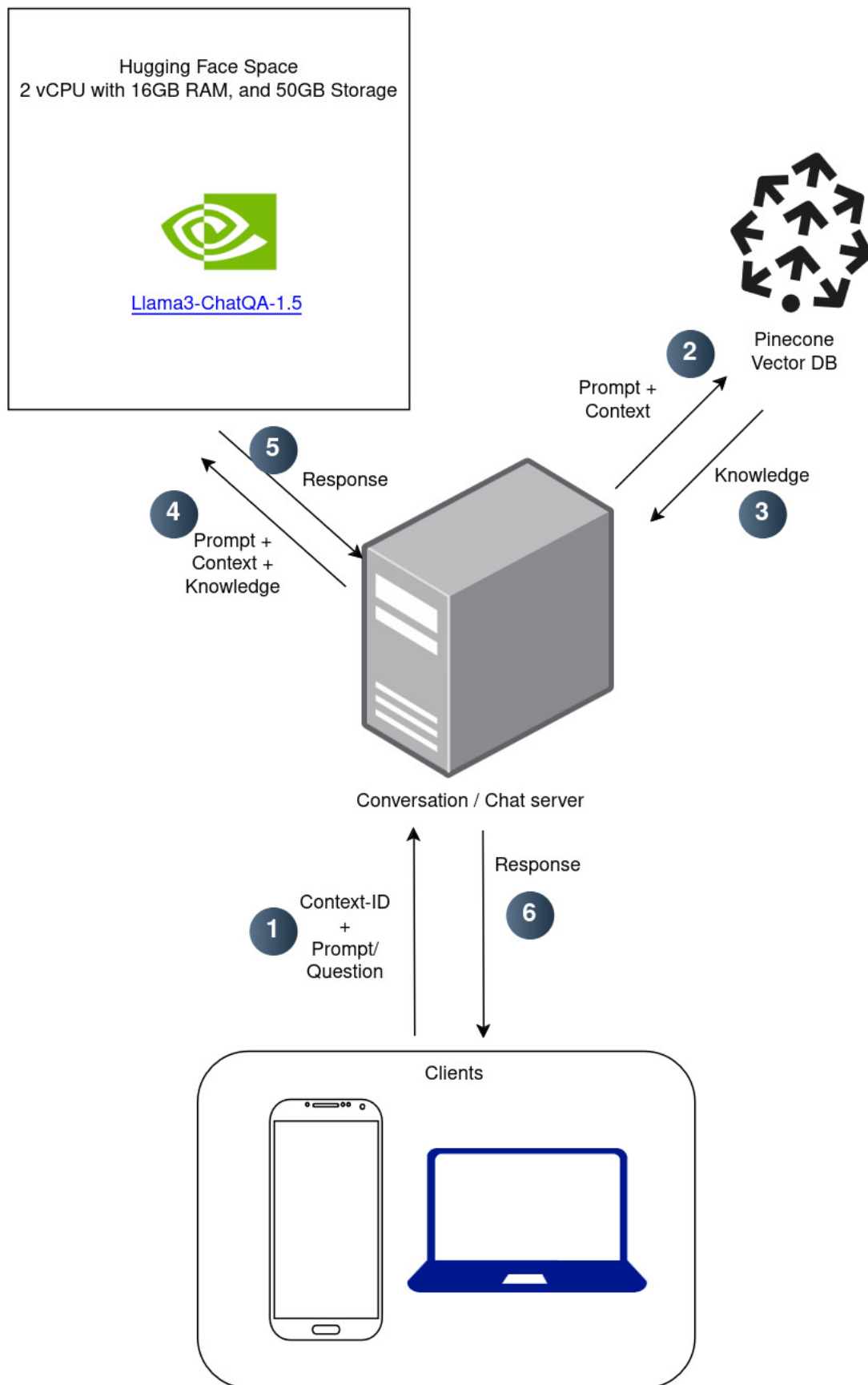


Figure 3.3: Chatbot Architecture

image data, thus outperforming traditional convolutional neural networks (CNNs) in capturing long-range relationships.

The training phase employs a fine-tuning approach, where the pre-trained ViT model is adapted to the specific task of plant disease classification. Fine-tuning involves updating the model’s weights using domain-specific datasets, ensuring it learns features that are particularly relevant to plant diseases. To address class imbalances often observed in agricultural datasets, weighted loss functions are incorporated. For binary classification tasks, Binary Cross-Entropy is applied, whereas Categorical Cross-Entropy is used for multi-class classification. These loss functions are optimized using gradient-based methods, ensuring that the model’s predictions align closely with ground-truth labels.

Validation is an integral part of the pipeline, where the model’s performance is rigorously assessed using multiple evaluation metrics, including accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. Accuracy measures overall correctness, precision evaluates the proportion of correctly identified positive cases, recall quantifies the ability to detect positive cases, and F1-score balances precision and recall to provide a holistic performance metric. This stage helps identify potential overfitting or underfitting, guiding further adjustments to the training process.

Once the model achieves satisfactory performance on validation data, it is deployed to classify new, unseen images. The deployment pipeline is optimized for efficiency, enabling real-time predictions even on low-resource devices. The system outputs the predicted disease class along with confidence scores, providing actionable insights to end-users.

To improve accessibility and enhance user experience, the solution integrates a chatbot powered by Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG). This chatbot serves as an interactive interface, allowing users to query information about plant diseases and receive detailed, context-aware responses. The RAG framework combines the model’s classification results with a database of pre-embedded answers, delivering recommendations on disease management, treatment methods, and preventive measures. This integration ensures that users not only receive predictions but also gain insights into addressing the identified issues effectively.

From a mathematical standpoint, the model’s optimization process relies on minimizing the specified loss functions. Binary Cross-Entropy, defined as:

$$L = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N [y_i \log(p_i) + (1 - y_i) \log(1 - p_i)]$$

is used for binary classification, while Categorical Cross-Entropy, expressed as:

$$L = -\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^C y_{ij} \log(p_{ij})$$

is employed for multi-class scenarios. Here, y_i and p_i represent the true and predicted labels, respectively.

The final layer of the model utilizes the Softmax activation function, given by:

$$\sigma(z_i) = \frac{e^{z_i}}{\sum_{j=1}^C e^{z_j}}$$

where z_i represents the logits for class i , and C denotes the number of classes. This function transforms raw logits into probability distributions, enabling the system to determine the most likely disease category.

In summary, this comprehensive pipeline integrates advanced machine learning techniques, a modular deployment framework, and a chatbot-based recommendation system to deliver an accessible and resource-efficient solution for plant disease classification and management.

The main overview of the entire process is as shown in Algorithm 1

Algorithm 1 PLant Disease Classification

- 1: **Input** Image dataset, Target labels
 - 2: **Output** Predicted Values
 - 3: Preprocess dataset (resize, normalize)
 - 4: Divide image into patches
 - 5: Extract features using ViT layers
 - 6: Train using fine-tuning approach
 - 7: Evaluate model performance on validation set
 - 8: Deploy trained model
-

3.3.6 Expected Outcomes

The proposed methodology is built to achieve accuracy and efficiency in the classification of diseases in plants through advanced techniques in machine learning. Advanced machine learning technique will address real-world issues in agriculture. The developed system targets a classification accuracy of over 90

In addition to its diagnostic capability, the system also encompasses a context-aware chatbot based on Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG). This chatbot can be thought of as an interactive assistant that provides targeted guidance and remedies according to the disease diagnosed. It fetches information pertinent to pre-trained knowledge bases, which may include treatments, precautions, and viable agricultural techniques. Through the ability of two-way communication, this chatbot also makes accessibility better for the users who can ask clarifications and seek more insight into management techniques of disease.

The proposed solution also supports incremental model updates to ensure long-term adaptability and scalability. This feature allows the system to incorporate new data and expand its knowledge base to include emerging diseases and updated remedies. The model continues to learn from new inputs and stays up-to-date, effectively addressing evolving agricultural challenges without requiring complete retraining.

Overall, this approach is practical, scalable, and accessible for modern agricultural disease management due to its high accuracy, real-time inference, low resource requirements, user-friendly design, and intelligent chatbot integration. It bridges the gap between cutting-edge

technology and grassroots farming needs, providing farmers with a reliable tool to safeguard crop health and improve productivity.

3.3.7 Advantages of the Proposed Work

3.3.8 Limitations and Assumptions

Chapter 4

Experimentation and Result Analysis

Describe how the proposed work was evaluated, and provide an analysis of the results.

4.1 Experimental Setup

Describe the resources, tools, and procedures used for conducting experiments.

Hardware and Software: Specify the computational resources, programming languages, libraries, or platforms used. Example: “Experiments were conducted on a system with an Intel i7 processor, 16GB RAM, using Python 3.9 and PyTorch.”

4.2 Datasets:

Provide details about the datasets used, including their source, characteristics (e.g., number of nodes, edges, features), and preprocessing steps. Example: “The experiments used two datasets: the Facebook Social Network dataset and the DBLP Citation Network, both containing time-stamped edges.”

4.3 Evaluation Metrics:

Define the metrics used to measure performance, such as precision, recall, F1 score, ROC-AUC, or computational efficiency. Example: “Precision and recall were used to evaluate prediction accuracy, while runtime was used to measure computational efficiency.”

4.4 Experimental Design

Describe how the experiments were conducted step by step.: **Baseline Methods:** List the existing methods used for comparison. Example: “The proposed model was compared against node2vec, GCN, and GAT models.”

4.4.1 Experimental Scenarios:

Discuss different conditions under which the experiments were conducted, such as varying dataset sizes, hyperparameters, or network dynamics. Example: “The experiments evaluated the model under static and dynamic conditions by incrementally adding edges over time.”

4.4.2 Parameter Tuning:

Mention how hyperparameters were optimized, if applicable. Example: “Grid search was performed to tune the learning rate, dropout rate, and number of GNN layers.”

4.5 Results

Present the results of your experiments in a clear and organized manner.

Tables and Graphs: Use tables, charts, and graphs to present quantitative results. Comparative Results: Compare the performance of your proposed model with baseline methods. Example: “The proposed model achieved an F1 score of 0.89 compared to 0.83 for node2vec.” Qualitative Results (if applicable): Include visualizations, case studies, or examples of outputs. Example: “Figure 4.2 shows the network before and after link prediction using the proposed model.”

4.6 Analysis of Results

Interpret the results and explain their significance.

4.7 Observations:

Discuss patterns or anomalies observed in the results. Example: “The proposed model outperforms baseline methods for dense graphs but shows reduced performance for sparse graphs.” Insights: Relate the results back to the research objectives and literature gaps. Example: “The results validate the proposed hybrid approach’s effectiveness in handling dynamic networks, addressing the scalability issue highlighted in the literature.” Statistical Significance (if applicable): Include significance testing to strengthen claims.

4.8 Comparative Analysis

Provide a side-by-side comparison of your results with those of existing methods.

Include a table summarizing metrics for all methods. Discuss the relative advantages or limitations of your approach. Example: “While the runtime of the proposed model is slightly higher than node2vec, it achieves significantly better precision.”

Chapter 5

Conclusion and Scope for further Research

5.1 Conclusion

The “Plant Disease Detection using Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning,” Project constitutes a means of facilitating the early and effective detection of diseases that attack plants in the farmers’ fields. This is accomplished by the use of a machine-learning-based application and website that can assist in identifying plant diseases with ease. Trials on the likes of chilli plants have shown a positive reaction, confirming that the system works effectively in real-life scenarios. This tool, indeed, has an aim of making plant disease detection open and accessible to all, especially poor resource farmers.

The Project is a simple-very-impactive solution. The system was developed to address real-life problems using a combination of public datasets and in-field data collection. The decentralization of the system, such that it could run directly on the device of the user, helps lower costs and brings about a higher number of users. Among other challenges are balancing the dataset and accommodating diverse image conditions, for which training procedure and data processing improvements are being undertaken.

This project has been accepted by many as one of the most pertinent advantages regarding scalability and applicability under all farming conditions. It is designed in such a way that farmers will find it easy to access predictions on cases of disease outgrowing their crops and advice without requiring any advanced technology. The system is also designed to run efficiently under low cost. This makes it feasible as a tool for farmers who lack accessible technologies and are economically hard-pressed.

With plant diseases looming as a serious wide-ranging threat to crops across the world, this project will serve as a good solution for farmers to protect their plants. Increasing coverage for disease and analysis of plant conditions over time will assist them in bettering both plant

health and yields. All emphasis on simple accessibility ensures that this project can make a genuine difference in modern agriculture.

5.2 Future Scope

There are opportunities for the improvement and enhancement of this project, notably for time-series analysis, whereby regular images of the same plant will be taken from time to time. Such data would be ideal for the model not only to indicate the presence of a disease but also to monitor the progression of that disease. In doing so, the model would be able to predict the stage of the disease as well as inform farmers on how fast the disease is spreading. By knowing the speed of spreading, farmers would, on their own, undertake targeted and timely measures in control and protection of the crops.

Another point can be made for the use of few-shot learning, where a model learns about a newly found crop disease in very few examples. This is in contrast to regular machine learning methods, which have trained for thousands of examples. Few-shot learning would thus allow the system to be more adaptive and faster in being updated. For example, when a new plant disease occurs in a geographical area, the model may be updated rapidly to detect such disease even with very few images. This will especially help in rural or poorly resourced areas where it is very difficult to collect a vast amount of data for rare diseases.

Vision transformers and the LLM (Llama 3.2) will probably be replaced with Google's PALIGEMMA technology, and it will make the most difference. This is an integrated image processing and natural language understanding system, more streamlined and easier to deploy. This will provide the platform with enhanced image analysis of plants, good disease predictions, and interactive suggestions that are communicated in fairly plain language.

Appendix A

title of appendix

Include your Code here

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- [1] M. Jung, J. S. Song, A.-Y. Shin, B. Choi, S. Go, S.-Y. Kwon, J. Park, S. G. Park, and Y.-M. Kim, “Construction of deep learning-based disease detection model in plants,” *Scientific reports*, vol. 13, no. 1, p. 7331, 2023.

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